

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0094] with the following replacement paragraph:

[0094] Minute quantities of an analyte may be detected with great sensitivity by the present invention. The invention provides conjugates of analyte-specific binding factors, such as antibodies, conjugated to oligonucleotide moieties that can form an amplicon. The conjugation between antibodies and other proteins with oligonucleotides is known in the art and taught, for example, in U.S. Pat. No. 5,849,878 and No. 5,665,539, which are incorporated by reference in their entirety herein. If the analyte-specific binding factor is a nucleic acid, for example, an aptamer, then the analyte-specific binding factor and the oligonucleotide or probe moiety may be synthesized in one contiguous strand using chemical synthesis methods known in the art. The term "conjugate" still applies to such aptamer-probe entities. The conditions for establishing an amplicon by adjoining oligonucleotides that are each conjugated to an antibody are also known and taught in U.S. Pat. No. 6,511,809, for example. Conditions and methodologies for amplifying amplicons and for detecting their presence are also known in the art, as taught in U.S. Pat. No. 6,511,809 and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0067792002/00674779, both incorporated herein by reference in their entirety. The use of labeled probes for the detection of amplification products, for example, also is taught in U.S. Pat. No. 5,928,869, No. 5,919,630; No. 5935,791; No. 6,316,200; and No. 6,379,888, all incorporated herein by reference in their entirety. U.S. Pat. No. 5,840,487 teaches the use of internal controls for isothermal nucleic acid amplification reactions and is also incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.